

REMARKS

Claims 10-19 and 21-29 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 10, 15 and 24-29 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. Support for the amendment(s) is provided in at least Figures 5-7 of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Cintiņs to Applicants' undersigned representative during an Examiner interview conducted on June 16, 2003. In view of the interview, claims 10, 15 and 24-29 are amended. Claims 10 and 24 are amended to further define the troughs as channels or grooves formed in the walls of the tank. Claims 25-29 are amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 24. Claim 15 is amended to delete reference to "polychloride". Applicants request allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Specification

The specification is amended to correct a minor typographical error.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 15 and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 is amended to delete reference to "polychloride". Claims 25-29 are amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 24. Applicants also submit, as discussed during the interview, that support is provided for claiming the tank, itself, without the use of the mattress-like filter. Referring to Figures 5-7

and the description at page 7, the use of the tank, itself, with troughs, is a patentable invention. Also, Applicants note that claims 10 and 24 are combination/sub-combination claims and that restriction is not warranted.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 15 and 24-29 be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 10, 11, 17 and 21-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Jowett. Claims 12-16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Jowett in view of Hirs. Claim 24 was rejected under §103(a) over TenBrink. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, the use of the troughs of the claimed invention are now defined as channels (claim 10) or grooves (claim 24) formed in the side and bottom walls of the tank. Support is found in at least Figures 5-7 of the present specification for these features. Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition defines a channel as a long gutter, groove or furrow. A groove is defined as a long narrow depression. Thus, the groove or channel formed in the walls of the tank is distinguishable over Jowett. At best, Jowett shows two walls that form a passageway. That is, Jowett shows a passageways for fluid (i.e., 38) formed by opposing walls. This passageway is not formed in the walls, itself. A clear structural distinction over the claimed invention.

Hirs, also, does not show this feature. TenBrink does not show the integrally formed channel or groove in the sides of the tank. Looking at Figure 3, for example, a pair vertical sides 46 extending above the bottom surface form a trough. This trough is not formed in the walls, itself. Clearly a distinguishing feature of the claimed invention.

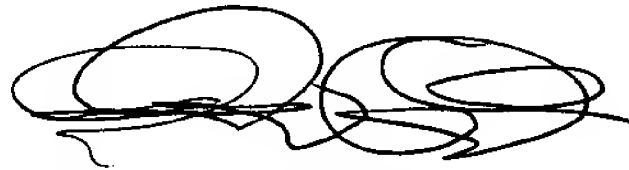
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. M. Calderon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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